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Illicit drug traffic and supply

International assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs

Report of the Executive Director

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 2001/16, of 24 July 2001 the Economic and Social Council requested the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) to prepare for submission to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs a report on international assistance to the States most affected by the transit of drugs. The present report contains a regional breakdown of the activities undertaken by UNDCP to provide such support. The UNDCP response follows the strategy adopted to support transit States through programmes that offer assistance in upgrading technical skills to meet enforcement needs; in strengthening, capabilities in such areas as data collection in support of intelligence-led policing; in the provision of equipment to frontline operations; and in interventions designed to build and support cross-border and regional cooperation, as well as self-sustaining programmes of instruction that provide enforcement agencies with training in best operating practices. Future projects will benefit from the new UNDCP initiative in computer-based training that could make possible, in a cost-effective and efficient manner, the training of large numbers of personnel in best-practice techniques.

II. Eastern and central Europe

2. UNDCP has delivered two phases of the project entitled "Strengthening control capacities of the Russian Federal Border Service at the Afghan-Tajik border" (with funding of 1.78 million United States dollars ($). Under the project, supplies of special and general-purpose equipment were delivered to the Russian border guards stationed along the most vulnerable sections of the Afghan-Tajik border, enabling them to conduct satellite mapping of drug depots and to locate laboratories and drug-trafficking routes. During the implementation of the project, units of the Russian Federal Border Service in Tajikistan seized 8.4 tons of drugs, including more than 3.1 tons of heroin, representing a 600 per cent increase from the levels reached during the previous biennium. The Federal Board Service has on various occasions officially reported how the project has been instrumental in significantly increasing the volume of seizures on the Afghan-Tajik border.

3. To further enhance the drug interdiction capacity of Russian law enforcement and to create a second tier of the security belt around Afghanistan, UNDCP has developed a pipeline project entitled "Strengthening of inter-agency drug enforcement capacities in the regions adjacent to the Russian/Kazakh border" (with funding of $5 million). The main objective of the project is to create a joint inter-agency task force in 12 regions along the Russian-Kazakh border. It is planned to equip the units and train their staff according to international standards.

4. Health professionals from Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and the Russian Federation improved their skills under the project "Training for drug abuse treatment providers", implemented by the *Associazione Casa Famiglia Rosetta*, an Italian non-governmental organization. The project aims at building a permanent drug treatment capacity in the three beneficiary countries to provide the services needed for adolescents and young adults of both sexes, as well as for older, primarily male, drug abusers.

5. UNDCP launched a multisectoral study in the north-west of the Russian Federation to assess drug abuse patterns and trends, with the emphasis on youth and the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). Activities were expected to begin during the last quarter of 2001.

6. In collaboration with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), a regional preparatory project on the diversification of services for drug abusers in Belarus, the Republic ofMoldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine was drawn up. Implementation was expected to start during the last quarter of 2001. UNDCP was also awarded a $150,000 grant under the UNAIDS Programme Acceleration Fund for its project on demand reduction and HIV prevention among intravenous drug users in the Moscow oblast.

7. In cooperation with the World Health Organization, UNDCP has implemented in Belarus and the Russian Federation the project entitled "Global Initiative on primary prevention of substance abuse among young people". The aim of the project is to support a group of local organizations in each country to develop and implement substance abuse prevention programmes at the community level, through the provision of training, technical advice, contacts and funds.

Under the project, UNDCP conducted a series of training seminars in both countries to assist the local partners in developing prevention programmes and applying for grants. In total, 34 non-governmental organizations were provided with grants and have been implementing their programmes in schools, colleges, youth organizations and juvenile correctional establishments.

III. Turkey

8. In Turkey, the first phase of a UNDCP project to support the establishment of the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime was launched in June 2000. During the first phase, which was completed in June 2001, the Academy became fully operational; several national and regional drug law enforcement training courses were delivered; assessments of training needs were carried out in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan; and curricular for training courses were developed.

IV. South Asia

9. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, technical assistance delivered through the ongoing comprehensive drug control programme reached $1.7 million in 2001. That included the delivery of both equipment and training to national drug control institutions working in the areas of supply and demand reduction and legislative development. In order to cope with the upward trend in heroin abuse, UNDCP assistance focused in particular on strengthening the treatment and rehabilitation component of the programme. Its assistance was designed to enhance the skills of human resources and to develop a pilot Internet-assisted network providing data on the admission of drug abusers to treatment centres. Delivery of equipment to the Iranian Police was coupled with stronger emphasis on regional cooperation, exemplified by the third regional meeting of drug liaison officers and the provision, for the first time, of regional training for Armenian, Georgian and Iranian police officers. Drug awareness campaigns at cultural and sports events were implemented in partnership with universities, non-governmental organizations and youth associations.

10. In 2001, UNDCP continued the second full year of a $5.25 million project to assist drug law enforcement in Pakistan. The project provides broad-based assistance to improve the capacity of the country to respond to drug trafficking. Because of the tragic events of 11 September 2001 a number of activities, including the midterm evaluation of the project, had to be rescheduled. However, the estimated delivery rate of project implementation for 2001 was expected to exceed 85 per cent. Up to November 2001, initial results showed that Pakistan had seized over 6 tons of heroin, 4.6 tons of opium and 53 tons of cannabis. The final year-end results will be higher, since data have to be collated from a number of different agencies in different geographical locations. Seizures tend to show an increased flow of heroin rather than opium through Pakistan. The year also saw the prosecution and conviction of two high-profile drug traffickers, one a former leading politician, the other a major businessman and newspaper owner.

11. Substantial emphasis has been placed on training, as there are 11 different agencies with narcotic interdiction mandates. Within the Anti-Narcotics Law Enforcement School, UNDCP conducted three basic drug law enforcement courses with a total of 70 students. An advanced course, as well as one course for financial investigators, was held with trainers from the Australian Federal Police for 27 students from different agencies. Within the country, 30 courses for 600 students were held by UNDCP, in cooperation with a number of different agencies. Training was also provided to the three drug-testing laboratories that have been upgraded to international standards. A seminar was held for all heads of laboratories and enforcement agencies to discuss the national situation and appropriate responses.

12. The initial three drug-testing laboratories were substantially upgraded by UNDCP to enable them to carry out full quantative and qualitative analysis. Equipment for further laboratories has been ordered and building work started to house the new equipment. In the laboratories assisted to date, substantial rebuilding had to take place to prepare the premises for the installation of the new equipment.

13. The introduction of comprehensive collection, analysis and dissemination intelligence has begun with the purchase of the necessary hardware to computerize intelligence data and link all the regional offices of the

Anti-Narcotics Force. The systems have been networked locally and will be made part of a wide area network in 2002. A software programme for the collection of intelligence has been commissioned and will be written to suit the needs of the agencies concerned. A period of training will follow for users in all locations. UNDCP is supporting the Government of Pakistan in countering money laundering, in particular through the adoption of legislation and practical measures.

14. Communication equipment for a number of agencies has been assessed and ordered. To improve the ability of those agencies, especially those operating in the key western border areas, to carry out patrolling and respond to information in a timely fashion, they continue to be supplied with vehicles. To counter the use of the international mail as a means of trafficking, following a threat and needs assessment, a Rapiscan Scanner has been installed at the main international letter and small parcel office in Karachi. Eight staff members have been fully trained in its use and the manual translated into Urdu. The Anti-Narcotics Force has determined that the lack of the use of drug detection dogs is potentially hindering interdiction at post offices and airports. To assess the impact, therefore, two dogs have been procured by the project, and are being trained by the military in Pakistan for use by the Anti-Narcotics Force.

15. One of the key components of the earlier border interdiction project was the enhancement of regional cooperation between Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, two countries used as important trafficking routes for opiates originating in Afghanistan. Such cooperation has continued, with UNDCP supporting the convening of various working groups. At government level, the secretaries of State responsible for drug control have met with heads of drug law enforcement agencies to discuss the current situation and the appropriate national response. Senior law enforcement officers have also met to discuss operational modalities and trends. During 2001, it has been possible to extend the scope of such meetings to include representatives of agencies involved in maritime interdiction.

16. One of the casualties of the September 2001 terrorist attacks was an assessment of the container traffic through the ports and dry ports of Pakistan and the adoption of remedial action. It had been hoped that following the assessment, work could have begun on the formation and training of a container profiling unit, to provide intelligence to operational teams. That has now been postponed until 2002. Another postponed activity has been the finalization of an assessment leading to a programme of possible assistance for the tribal areas of Pakistan. The recent war in Afghanistan has shown the volatility and limited government control of those areas and their fiercely ethnic traditions, which amplify the need for a careful programme that addresses the issue of trafficking, but that is acceptable to and involves the local people.

17. The assistance provided has helped a number of agencies involved in stemming the flow of illicit drugs to increase their efficiency and capacity. To some extent, that will have an impact on other areas of concern to the international community, since those agencies also have responsibilities that involve countering terrorism and the illegal flow of people and money. Many of the skills required and taught for countering illicit trafficking apply equally to other criminal activities.

18. In India, two large-scale community-wide drug demand reduction projects initiated in 1999 are being implemented. The aim of the two projects is to reduce and prevent drug abuse among the general population and high-risk groups. The projects, entitled "Community-wide demand reduction in India" and "Community-wide demand reduction in the north-eastern States of India", supplement the programme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment designed to support non-governmental organizations in carrying out demand reduction activities. The long-term objective is to reduce drug abuse among the general population, in particular among high-risk groups and drug addicts. The projects also have the following aims: to assist the Government in establishing an infrastructure making it possible to initiate, support and sustain demand reduction activities on a nationwide scale; and to launch new activities, with the help of non-governmental organizations serving regional resource training centres and of the National Centre for Drug Abuse Prevention, established with technical support from UNDCP.

V. Central Asia

19. In central Asia, the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat has provided multi-

sectoral assistance in capacity-building and drug control over a number of years, covering areas such as policy and strategy development, institution-building, strengthening of control measures and reduction of illicit supply of and demand for drugs. The objective has been to facilitate subregional and interregional cooperation in addressing the drug problem faced by all central Asian States. Currently, the Office is executing 10 regional and country projects in central Asia. Regional cooperation is being enhanced within the framework of the memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control cooperation in central Asia, signed in Tashkent on 4 May 1996. The third annual meeting to review the memorandum of understanding, held in Dushanbe in September 2001, endorsed the accession of Azerbaijan to the memorandum of understanding, thus further expanding the scope of subregional cooperation in drug control.

20. The Office drew up the regional programme entitled "Strengthening drug control and crime prevention capacities in the central Asian States" for the period from 2002 to 2005. The aim of the regional programme is to strengthen the capacities of Central Asian States to take effective action at national and regional levels by reducing drug trafficking, drug abuse and organized crime. The regional programme was motivated by the following factors: the dramatic increase in drug trafficking across central Asia, especially in opiates from neighbouring Afghanistan destined for the Russian Federation, other States of the Commonwealth of Independent States, western Europe and, to some extent, the United States of America; the escalating abuse of drugs in central Asia; and the lack of basic resources to establish effective drug control mechanisms and structures in the region. The programme will be implemented through a series of interrelated regional and national projects designed to enhance national capacities in drug control and crime prevention. The objectives also include strengthening regional and international cooperation to ensure the broadest possible participation of multilateral and bilateral agencies, civil society etc. in the planning and implementation of projects.

21. In view of the increasing threat posed to central Asia by organized crime, illicit drugs and terrorism, the Office convened, jointly with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism, in Bishkek on 13 and 14 December 2001. The Conference adopted a declaration and a plan of action that emphasized the vulnerability of the central Asian States and the need for international assistance.

VI. Latin America and the Caribbean

22. Brazil is a major gateway to world markets for illicit drugs produced in the Andean region, especially cocaine. The extensive borders of Brazil with the drug-producing countries, as well as its vast river, air and road infrastructure systems, offer numerous smuggling routes for drug trafficking. Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay and Venezuela face similar problems. Furthermore, the Caribbean States, Mexico and the Central American States are important transit zones for illicit drugs produced in South America on their way to markets, mainly in the United States, Canada and Europe. Illicit drugs are available for local consumption at relatively low price levels. The available data indicate that the abuse of cocaine, crack cocaine, inhalants and amphetamine-type stimulants have markedly increased in recent years, with youth starting to abuse illicit drugs at ever younger ages. Drug-related violence, corruption and money-laundering are also a major concern in the region. UNDCP continued to support the Latin American and Caribbean States most affected by the transit of drugs in their efforts to improve control structures and law enforcement capacity, including cross-border cooperation, and in addressing drug abuse problems. In Ecuador, UNDCP supports drug law enforcement and administration of justice, primarily through training. In that context, cross-border cooperation between Colombia and Ecuador is being strengthened.

23. UNDCP assisted the Government of Brazil in the implementation of effective policies in drug law enforcement and drug abuse prevention. The $23 million law enforcement programme of Brazil aims at strengthening the national security forces, including national security information system and a precursor control system. The modernization of the National Police Academy and the development and implementation of a State police training programme contribute to professional capacity-building. Capacities for drug control will be improved through coordination and the exchange of information within Brazil and with

neighbouring countries. Most of the activities under the law enforcement programme were scheduled to be completed by the end of 2001, but because of institutional reforms and the adoption of the national security plan, the programme was revised and extended through 2003.

24. UNDCP support to drug abuse prevention in Brazil has focused on a nation wide 33 million HIV/AIDS prevention programme designed to reduce the incidence of, and the harm caused by, HIV infection among vulnerable populations, with special attention given to intravenous drug users. Building on the success of a UNDCP-sponsored model project with the Federation of Private Companies in Rio Grande do Sul, a new project on prevention at the workplace will be implemented with the Government-owned electricity company Eletronorte. The two-year project will be entirely funded by the company and implemented by 2003. UNDCP will launch a new project in support of the National Sanitary Surveillance Agency to strengthen national capacities for the control and inspection of illicit drugs.

25. At the Caribbean subregional level, UNDCP support for action against illicit drug trafficking has included assistance to the Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council in establishing a regional clearance system for the control of the movement of vessels and small aircraft. Expert advice and assistance has been provided to 14 Caribbean States in the drafting of new or revised precursor control legislation. In the Dominican Republic, UNDCP continued to provide judicial training and direct support in the investigation and prosecution of drug-trafficking, money-laundering and corruption cases. While UNDCP support to forensic services was completed for the Caribbean in 2001, a subregional forensic laboratory programme providing equipment and training to improve the analysis of drugs and precursors is ongoing in Mexico and Central America.

26. National drug prevention programmes were supported in various Caribbean States in the past, and most recently in Cuba and the Dominican Republic. UNDCP also provides advice and training in data collection and research methodologies in support of the regional Caribbean Drug Information Network In the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, UNDCP will work with other United Nations bodies in supporting government efforts to prevent drug abuse among youth and violence associated with drug trafficking in poor neighbourhoods of selected major cities. With support from UNAIDS, UNDCP also plans to work with youth organizations on drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention in selected Caribbean States.

27. In Central America, UNDCP provides technical advice and training to Governments and non-governmental organizations to improve the planning and implementation of drug abuse prevention programmes, building on existing expertise and experience within the region. In Mexico, UNDCP will co-sponsor the development of an addiction studies programme at the University of Veracruz, and contribute to the improvement of treatment and rehabilitation services provided in Chiapas.

VII. East Asia and the Pacific

28. The cultivation of opium poppy and abuse of opium are traditional practices in the highland border areas of China, Myanmar, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam, where a large percentage of the world supply of illicit opiates is produced in remote areas within the subregion. Heroin-producing laboratories are located close to the main opium-producing areas, and precursor chemicals, necessary for the conversion of opium into heroin, are transported through the surrounding countries to the main production areas located in Myanmar. Within the framework of the subregional action plan, agreed upon in the context of the memorandum of understanding signed in 1993 by Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand, Viet Nam and UNDCP, UNDCP has continued to play a coordinating role in drug control activities at the subregional level. Focusing on broad-based and long-term programmes, it has provided assistance in the formulation and implementation of subregional and national projects in drug control, in close cooperation with other United Nations bodies, national and international institutions and non-governmental organizations.

29. Through a subregional action plan on drug control, UNDCP has developed a professional computer-based training programme for the six States of the region—Cambodia, China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam—that have signed the memorandum of

understanding on mutual cooperation and support in drug law enforcement. The interactive computer-based learning programme is delivered in the language of each of the States concerned. As a result, high-quality, self-sustaining programmes of training in frontline interdiction methodologies and investigative techniques have been made available to the law enforcement agencies of the six States, directly enhancing their enforcement capabilities against the traffic and transit of illicit drugs in their territories.

30. During the period from 1996 to 2000, UNDCP assisted the Government of Viet Nam in implementing its first drug control master plan and in the successful completion of six projects at a total cost of $6.7 million. UNDCP is currently assisting the Government in building a new phase of cooperation within the framework of a new master plan that will reflect the balanced approach adopted by UNDCP in dealing with the drug control problems encountered in the country.

31. The second phase of a project initiated by UNDCP to counter the potential diversion of precursor chemicals in south and south-west Asia started in January 2000. The projects will run for a new four-year cycle, with a special focus on assisting Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, in law enforcement investigations and the sharing of information. A second precursor control project focused on south-east Asia started its second phase in late 2001, extending its activities to Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.